Tau Beta Pi Names
2002 Laureates

Devon J. Battaglia

Devon J. Battaglia was nominated by the Pennsylvania Alpha Chapter at Lehigh University for his campus contributions to the performing arts—while completing a two-degree, five-year double-major program in music and engineering physics with a minor in applied mathematics.

The valedictorian of his Rochester high-school class, Devon chose to attend Lehigh because the school provided the best opportunity to pursue his two passions: engineering physics and music. Throughout his high-school years, he had performed the lead in more than a half dozen theatrical productions and since his junior year he had worked as a paid lab assistant at the University of Rochester's laboratory laser energetics.

Since 1998, Devon has made a broad impact on the Lehigh campus. A trombone player, he has consistently performed with the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Philharmonic Orchestra—and as a singer and actor, he has entertained audiences as a member of the university choir and a performer in musical and opera productions; he is one of only a few non-theater majors given a chance to perform a major role in a theater-department production.

The time Devon devotes to the arts in a normal week includes 19 hours rehearsing with ensembles and up to four hours practicing on his own, plus extra time during show-production weeks, camps for choir, orchestra, musical theater and opera, sectional rehearsals, recording sessions, and private lessons. Unofficially, he will graduate next year with more music credits than any major in Lehigh's history (33 core credits for music majors, but he may accumulate more than 75). The winner of the Malcolm J. Gordon Jr. physics prize and engineering dean and Tandy Technology scholarships was elected to Tau Beta Pi and Phi Beta Kappa.

Three laureates

have been selected in the 21st year of Tau Beta Pi's annual program to recognize gifted engineering students who have excelled in non-technical areas.

The 2002 Laureates were selected for their creative and diverse achievements. They are: Devon J. Battaglia, Pennsylvania Alpha '03, honored for his contributions to the performing arts; Sarah T. Bauer, Iowa Alpha '03, recognized for her achievements in music performance and her music ministry; and Erik C. Porse, Connecticut Gamma '02, for his service to the policy and law-making community as a WISE intern.

They join 51 other outstanding Tau Bates who have been cited since the program began in 1982.

The new Laureates will be honored during ceremonies on October 5, 2002, at the 97th annual Convention in Detroit, MI, where each will receive a $2,500 check and a commemorative plaque.

The Laureate Program was inaugurated to further Tau Beta Pi's second basic purpose as stated in the preamble to the Constitution: "to foster a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges." A committee of District Directors considered 11 nominees from 10 chapters.